

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 6, 2005. Claims 5 to 8, 12 to 15, 19 to 22 and 26 to 36 are in the application. Claims 1, 8, 16, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35, and 36 are the independent claims.

Claims 1, 5 to 8, 12 to 15, 19 to 22, and 26 to 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,271,805 (Yonezawa) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,048 (Okazaki) and U.S. Patent No. 5,621,429 (Yamaashi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to the reception and display of frame images from at least one communication terminal. In one feature of the present invention, a symbol indicating an update state of the received frame images is displayed. The update state includes at least three states: (1) an updating state; (2) a non-updating state; and (3) a non-reception state. Specifically, the symbol is displayed in a first condition corresponding to the updating state when a currently displayed frame image is updated by a next frame image. The symbol is displayed in a second condition corresponding to the non-updating state when the currently displayed frame image is not updated by a next frame image. No symbol is displayed, corresponding to the non-reception state, when the received frame images are not displayed. In this way, a user can quickly assess when the currently displayed frame image is updated.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 recites a communication apparatus including a reception unit for receiving frame images generated

from a plurality of communication terminals, and an output unit for outputting the frame images received by said reception unit in order to display the frame images on a display unit as multiple image displays. The communication apparatus also includes a notification unit for causing the display unit to display a symbol indicating an update state of the received frame images. The update state includes at least an updating state, a non-updating state, and a non-reception state. The symbol is displayed on a predetermined area at a time when the corresponding frame image is displayed. The notification unit causes display of the symbol in a first condition corresponding to the updating state when a currently displayed frame image is updated by a next frame image. The notification unit causes display of the symbol in a second condition corresponding to the non-updating state when the currently displayed frame image is not updated by a next frame image. The notification unit causes the display of no symbol corresponding to the non-reception state when the received frame images are not displayed.

Independent Claims 8, 22, and 35 are method claims; independent Claims 15 and 31 are apparatus claims, and independent Claims 29, 30, and 36 are storage medium claims. These independent claims correspond generally to independent Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35 and 36, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the three-state notification of frame update state set out in the claims.

Yonezawa is not seen to disclose at least the feature described above, and as conceded by the Office Action, Yonezawa fails to disclose even notifying of a state of frame rate of the received images.

Okazaki and Yamaashi have been reviewed, but are also not seen to describe the three-state notification of frame update state as set out in the claims. In this regard, any display by Okazaki or Yamaashi of a frame rate number is not the same as the three-state notification of frame update state.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 30, 31, 35, and 36 are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

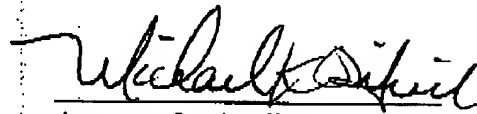
The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

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Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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